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SUBJECT Background Information on Political Situation in Northwest China

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1. In January 1949 CHANG Chih-chung, before leaving Lanchow for Nanking, gave orders to his most trusted men in Sinkiang Province, instructing them to be "democratic" in order to follow the present political trend, and to devise ways in which "democracy" might take root among the people. CHANG's followers decided to make LIU Meng-ch'un, Secretary General of Sinkiang, the director of the "democracy taking root" project and concurrently head of the Sinkiang Provincial Publicity Committee (新疆省宣傳委員會). T'AN Wei-hsu, Vice General Executive Secretary of the Northwest Cultural Reconstruction Association (西北文化建設協會) and concurrently Director of the Board of the Hsin Chiang Jih Pao, was to collect publicity materials and turn the Hsin Chiang Jih Pao into an efficient publicity organ of the Provincial Government. SUN Fu-sheng (孫浮生), Chief of the General Administration Office of the Sinkiang Garrison Headquarters and concurrently one of the leaders in the Sinkiang Provincial Han Race Cultural Promotion Association (新疆省漢族文化促進會) and an organizer of the Sinkiang Provincial Works Corps (新疆勞動團), was assigned the task of enforcing a thorough "democratic" thought training among the various races of Sinkiang through the pao chia officials. CH'EN Fang-po (陳方伯) was to control all schools and other aspects of education in Sinkiang Province. CH'EN is Deputy Commissioner of Education and concurrently President of the Board of Directors of the Alumni Association of All Middle and Normal Schools of Sinkiang Province (新疆省各中學師範畢業同學會)*. LIU Yung-hsiang (劉永祥), Chief of the Social Affairs Bureau of the Sinkiang Provincial Government and concurrently Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Sinkiang Provincial Han Race Cultural Promotion Association, was given the responsibility of controlling various social activities and coordinating them with the cultural activities led by SUN Fu-sheng.
2. At a Provincial editors' conference in January 1949, LIU Meng-ch'un made a speech on the "democratic" policy of CHANG Chih-chung, stressing the latter's desire for peace and his various efforts to persuade CHIANG Kai-shek to make peace with the Communists. He pointed out that this is the era of socialism of the Soviet type; that one should not be afraid of the Communists, nor of being progressive; and that behavior conforming to socialist doctrines would insure better treatment by the Communists when they should arrive. He requested all press organs to stress Sino-Soviet friendship, and to introduce

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the people gradually to the evils of the United States. At another meeting at the Kuomintang headquarters, LIU told the assemblage of leading Chinese officials that the Kuomintang did not manage the government well and that it was only reasonable to hope for the success of the Communists as a means to better management.

3. Biographical information on the men who were to carry out CHIANG Chih-chung's program in Sinkiang Province follows:

LIU Meng-ch'un is a native of Kwangtung and a long-time follower and "wisdom bag" of CHIANG Chih-chung. He has been Secretary-General and Publicity Committee Chairman of the Sinkiang Provincial Government and concurrently Secretary-General of the Northwest High Military and Political Officials' Administration (formerly called the Generalissimo's Northwest Headquarters) since 1946, when CHIANG Chih-chung became Director of the Administration. LIU is sly and wicked and always has a cunning smile and does things in an underhanded manner. For example, he "manufactured" crimes, and imprisoned and executed many lower rank officials of the provincial government who did not get along with him during the period when CHIANG Chin-chung was Governor of Sinkiang. He still has the title of Secretary-General of the Administration because LA Pu-fang, at least for the time being, does not want to create unrest or a bad reaction by removing high officials of the Administration.

T'AN Wei-hsu (錢維夏) is a native of Kiangsu and was formerly First Section Chief under the Secretary General of the Northwest High Military and Political Officials' Administration. He has been Assistant General Executive Secretary of the Northwest Cultural Reconstruction Association since about 1946 and Director of the Board of the Hsin Chiang Jih Pao since January 1949. He is an opportunist and a leading member of LIU Meng-ch'un's clique.

SUN Fu-sheng (孫浮生) is a native of Hupeh and a former "Blue Shirt" leader in Sinkiang who later became CHIANG Ching-kuo's man and still later turned to CHIANG Chih-chung. He took charge of underground work for the Central Government during SHENG Shih-ts'ai's regime and was alert enough not to be caught. He became Chairman of the Sinkiang Kuomintang Provincial Headquarters when CHU Shao-liang succeeded SHENG as Governor of Sinkiang, and organized and led the Sinkiang Provincial Youth Cultural Work Corps to force youth in various parts of Sinkiang to join the Kuomintang and the San Lin Chu I Youth Corps - those who refused to join were taken for granted as men of SHENG Shih-ts'ai and were severely dealt with. SUN was later Chief of the Social Affairs Bureau of the Sinkiang Provincial Government, and was appointed Secretary-General of the Nanking Kuomintang Headquarters in 1947 but did not accept the post upon the request of CHIANG Chih-chung who wanted to keep SUN in the Northwest. He was made High Councillor of the Northwest High Military and Political Officials' Administration in Lanchow in 1947 and, with this title, acted as a "cultural official" and edited the Northwest Forum (Hsi Pei Lun T'an /西北論壇) which dominated public opinion - he sent his agents to investigate the "progressive" editors, to warn them, to arrest them, to chase them out of Lanchow and even to murder some of them - for this reason he was nicknamed the "Life King of Hell" (Huo Yen Wang /活閻王). He has been Chief of the General Administration Office of the Sinkiang Garrison Headquarters and concurrently one of the responsible personnel of the Sinkiang Provincial Han Race Cultural Promotion Association since 1948; recently reorganized the Sinkiang Provincial Youth Cultural Work Corps in order to make "democracy" take root among the youth. He has over 50 underground agents collected from various provincial organs; has been a man who stops at no means to accomplish his own selfish purposes.

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TSO Shu-p'ing (左曙平) is a native of Hunan; was sometimes called one of China's "modern poets" before the war with the Japanese when he edited the New Poetical Songs (Hsin Shih Ko / 新詩歌), published in Shanghai. Later he became one of CHIANG Ching-kuo's men and since about 1946 has been Special Commissioner of the 1st Administrative Region (Yen Ch'i / 檢委) of Sinkiang (Hsin Chiang Sheng Ti I Ch'u Hsing Cheng Chuan Yuan / 新疆省第一屆行政委員會) and later concurrently Dean of the Sinkiang Provincial Training Corps because of LIU Meng-ch'un's support. He is corrupt and well-known for all kinds of vice, but capable in collecting cultural intelligence and in enforcing thought control and as a result he was greatly appreciated by LIU Meng-ch'un, who tried in every possible way to win him over and finally succeeded in getting him to be a strong member of LIU's clique partly through his family relation with T'AN Wei-hsu (TSO is the nephew of T'AN's wife), an old member of LIU's clique.

CH'EN Fang-po (陳方伯) is a native of the Northeast and was Magistrate of Hami and other hsien of Sinkiang during SHENG Shih-ts'ai's regime. He has been Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Alumni Association of All Middle and Normal Schools in Sinkiang since about 1945. He leaned toward CHANG Chih-chung when CHANG's sphere of influence entered Sinkiang in 1946 and since then has been used by LIU Meng-ch'un because of his leadership in the Alumni Association. He was made Deputy Commissioner of Education of the Sinkiang Provincial Government in 1946, and since the Education Commissioner, Saifeddin Azizi, left for India that same year CH'EN has been dominating and controlling the educational affairs of Sinkiang. He is an opportunist without a political mind. His private life is unsavory.

LIU Yung-hsiang (劉永祥) is a native of Sinkiang of Chinese race. He has been Chief of the Social Affairs Bureau of the Sinkiang Provincial Government and concurrently a member of the Board of Directors of the Sinkiang Provincial Han Race Cultural Promotion Association since about 1947 because of LIU Meng-ch'un's influence. He is a faithful servant of LIU.

4. The 42 Army, commanded by General CH'AO Hsi-kuang, consists of from 30,000 to 40,000 men who were formerly commanded and trained by General YANG Te-liang. General YANG was anti-Soviet, and his influence is still so strong in the 42 Army that CHAO, though an opportunist and a follower of CHANG Chih-chung, fears that they might turn against him if ordered to fight against non-Communist forces or to cooperate with Soviet or Soviet-supported groups. CHAO has therefore recently opened and improved a route from Sufu (Kashgar) to Tibet, ostensibly for carrying on trade with India. This road was designed to serve as an escape route for the troops, so as to avoid trouble in event of a crisis.
5. In July 1949, General MA Pu-fang took the lead among a number of high officials of the Northwest Administration, in managing the funeral of FU Tso-yi's mother, and is said to have paid most of the expenses involved. MA still considers FU a great friend of his.

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~~Comment~~. This Alumni Association is a strong force in controlling education in Sinkiang, and especially in expelling educational personnel whom the Association considers unfit.

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